

WEST FELTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES of the WEST FELTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2022 at 7:30pm at West Felton Village Hall.

Chaired by: David Walker (Parish Council Chairman)

Clerked by: Rosemary Wood (Parish Council Clerk)

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: David Walker, Pat Mabe, David Curtis, Kerry Grove, John Houghton, John Thornhill, Edward Nicholas

Representatives from local groups: Six (including one parish councillor) representing seven groups

Additional Members of the Public: Eight

West Mercia Police: PCSO Charlie Iremonger (until end of item 3.22)

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| 1.22 | CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME & APOLOGIES The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He also advised that anything that was said may be included in public minutes and all present consented to this. Apologies received from: Parish Councillors Marian Hesketh and Carole Coles County Councillor Steve Charmley Community Groups: Colleen Hughes (magazine) |
| 2.22 | MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2021 It was RESOLVED to confirm the above minutes as a true record and the Chairman was instructed to sign them as such. |
| 3.22 | WEST MERCIA POLICE ANNUAL REPORT An annual report of crime statistics which had been made available on the council's website was considered and NOTED . PCSO Iremonger gave a report of last month's reported crimes and answered questions. He also advised that the police are currently recruiting for the Community Speed Watch and that a minimum of six volunteers would be needed to run the scheme in the parish. Cllr Walker advised that the parish council still has Smartwater kits available for any residents who want them. |
| 4.22 | WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT Cllr Walker reported on the activities of the council during the year as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A more normal year for the council with 11 in person meetings.• The loss of the council's General Power of Competence due to insufficient numbers of people standing for election in May 2021, and details of various co-options of new members during the year with two current vacancies to be filled.• Connection of the third LED streetlight at Queens Head after many months of frustrating delays.• Grants awarded to the Methodist Chapel (£500) and WI (£200).• Grounds maintenance contract renewed for a further three years with Graham Taylor following the high standard of work.• 27 planning applications considered, including some controversial ones such as Tedsmore Lakes.• Policies and procedures reviewed and updated during the year, notably the council's Action Plan which led to the purchase of additional bins to help combat dog fouling.• Pursuance of an application for Conservation Area status for parts of the village. Cllr Walker thanked residents for their input at the exhibition and advised that Shropshire Council has indicated there is some merit in the application but has suggested a modified boundary which the parish council will discuss at their May meeting. He also expressed his belief that Conservation Area status will help to protect the village from inappropriate development when the village becomes a Community Hub on completion of the Shropshire Local Plan review. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council's Community Infrastructure Levy ('CIL') monies and consideration of infrastructure projects for spending of these monies. It was noted that £50,000 of the monies held had been set aside (subject to receipt of suitable applications) to assist the school with its expansion project. Cllr Walker advised that the council would like to hear ideas for infrastructure projects from the community. • Smartwater kits to deter theft are still available to residents. • The council has reduced its precept this year in order to get its reserves within reasonable levels. <p>A resident asked for further details of the school expansion project and expressed concern about possible additional traffic on the road, causing congestion and safety issues for pedestrians. Head Teacher, Helen Hughes, explained the project and advised that it was to deal with current overcrowding problems and would not therefore result in an increase in capacity or traffic. There followed a discussion about parents parking at the Punch Bowl and that the landlord does not always allow it.</p> |
| 5.22 | <p>SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>The Clerk read an annual report provided by Shropshire Councillor Steve Charmley, which was considered and NOTED and included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation for being re elected as Shropshire Councillor and returned as Deputy Leader and infrastructure portfolio holder. • Stepping back from front line politics to concentrate on local matters, for health reasons following abuse including death threats. • The council continuing to deliver against underfunding across almost all services. The impact of the pandemic resulting in a steep rise in children in care and numbers of adults in social care still increasing, resulting in social care making up almost 75% of the revenue budget. • The council continuing to deliver on capital projects, successfully securing grant funding, including Mile End improvements; submission of funding requests for Whittington and Orthopaedic roundabouts; North West Relief Road (mostly government funded) which is in the planning system and will bring huge benefits. • The council's administration delivering on its election promises. • Free recycling bins to be delivered soon, with take up very high. • Extra funds into the highways budget now signed off. • Shropshire Council's housing company Cornovii selling its first properties, with an impressive pipeline of schemes, houses built well above industry standards aiming to be as carbon neutral as possible, and initially being offered to Shropshire residents. |
| 6.22 | <p>ANNUAL WRITTEN REPORTS FROM PARISH GROUPS</p> <p>Written reports from the following groups had been circulated and were NOTED:</p> <p>(a) West Felton Methodist Chapel – a representative present read the report.</p> <p>(b) West Felton Village Hall – a representative read the report and also expressed the need for new people to come forward to volunteer with community groups, as many people have done things for years and may not wish to continue. A resident congratulated the village hall on the large government grant obtained during the pandemic and the representative advised that the village hall intended largely to hold this in reserve to secure the future of the village hall.</p> <p>(c) West Felton CE Primary School – the Head Teacher gave a verbal summary of the report and also advised that since her report the school has begun planning a Jubilee Garden, a Jubilee competition in conjunction with St Michael's Church and a climate change competition.</p> <p>(d) West Felton Royal British Legion – a representative gave a verbal summary of the report, advising that there are very few members, and the focus is on the main events centring around Remembrance Sunday. He invited residents to join and gave a reminder that there is no requirement to be serving or have served in the armed forces to join the RBL.</p> <p>(e) St Michael's Parish Church – a representative gave a verbal summary of the report.</p> <p>(f) Village Magazine – no representative present</p> <p>(g) West Felton WI – a representative read the report.</p> <p>(h) Carnival Committee – a representative gave a verbal summary of the report and encouraged people to join the procession at this year's carnival.</p> |

Following item 6.22 there was a break for refreshments, after which Cllr Mabe, one group representative and three other residents left the meeting.

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| 7.22 | PARISH MATTERS/OPEN FORUM a) Parish Council ideas for CIL monies – Cllr Walker outlined the following ideas for spending of CIL monies and invited feedback from electors: Hicksons Lane – lay a compacted surface Footpath to connect Oak Farm Lane to back of Methodist Chapel Verge at Whispering Oaks near school – widen or take curve out Drop curves around the village – improve to increase accessibility Install a streetlight at Whispering Oaks Rights of way – maintenance of gates/stiles etc Tennis court BMX track Burial ground – resurface central part of gravelled area Canal towpath – hardcore to improve accessibility Queens Head T junction from Rednal – improve visibility by extending give way lines Traffic calming measures across the parish, but particularly on The Avenue b) Comments from electors – the following comments were made, and ideas suggested: Community car park at Punch Bowl/Dovaston strip, particularly to assist with school drop up/pick up Bowling Green – a resident enquired about this as it was in the Parish Plan. Sandstone wall entering village from Queens Head - gives a bad impression due to being in a state of disrepair. Tennis court/BMX track – a resident enquired as to where these would be and was advised that at this stage these are just ideas, and if supported then further investigations would follow. Measures needed to deal with speeding on The Avenue, Holyhead Road and Queens Head (particularly between Queens Head and the village). (A lengthy discussion took place on this issue.) Dog fouling – an ongoing problem Road narrowed at Dovaston Park development (to accommodate legal requirement for a wider pavement) – concern was expressed about this being a safety issue for both vehicles and pedestrians, as the road is now too narrow for the speed of vehicles and to cater for larger agricultural vehicles. |
| 8.22 | CLOSE The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10:15pm. |

Chairman’s Signature..... Dated.....